



THE TRAILBLAZER



Volume 3, Issue 3

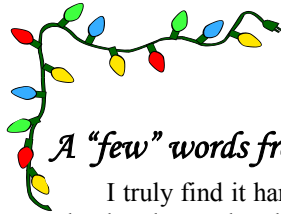
CLEARWATER FUNDAMENTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

"Our Learning Lasts a Lifetime"

December 2011

Dates to Remember

- Dec. 1st - Report Cards Available on Portal
- Dec. 1st - Dodge Ball Practice, (check schedule for dates), 3 - 4:15 PM, Gym
- Dec. 2nd - 8th grade field trip
- Dec. 6th - Student Council Meeting, 7:45AM, Rm. #408
- Dec. 7th & 14th - Chess Club, 2:55PM - 3:45 PM, Room #203
- Dec. 7th, 8th, & 9th - Dance Tickets Available \$5, Main Hallway, 7:45 - 8:15 AM
- Dec. 7th - 8th Grade Panoramic Picture
- Dec. 8th - PMAC Meeting, 2:50PM - 3:40PM, Rm. #207
- Dec. 8th - Orchestra Winter Concert, 7PM, East Lake High Auditorium
- Dec. 9th - SPIRIT DAY
- Dec. 9th & 16th - Girls Get It Club, 7:30AM - 8:10AM, Room 414
- Dec. 9th - Winter Dance, 6:30 - 9:30 PM, Gym
- Dec. 13th - Science Tutoring, 2:50 - 3:50 PM, Rm. # 309
- Dec. 14th - FBLA Meeting, 3 - 3:45PM, Rm. 303
- Dec. 14th - Godfidence Meeting, 2:45 - 3:20PM, Rm. #310
- Dec. 15th - STEP Club Meeting, 7:45AM, Rm. #402
- Dec. 15th - Discovery Night 6:30 - 8 PM, Gym
- Dec. 19th - Jan 2nd - Winter Holidays



Happy Holidays



A "few" words from Mr. "R",

I truly find it hard to believe that two marking periods and the Thanksgiving Day holiday break are already behind us. Where does the time go? Electronic report cards became available on Thursday, December 1st. Please take a few minutes to review your child's grades, conduct level and teacher remarks. Published during the holiday season, I would have preferred to have written my "few words" in celebration of the season before us. However, while over 700 (85%) of our students earned respectable grades, I am most disappointed with the 123 students who earned D's and F's.

Regarding the student body's conduct, while I want to celebrate the 780 (92%) students who earned Satisfactory or Excellent in conduct, I find myself focused on the 70 students who earned a (N) Needs Improvement or (U) Unacceptable notation for the second marking period. If you are faced with disappointing grades and/or comments, please hold conversations with your child. While we as a school can set and enforce high expectations, to be successful your child's teachers need your support as we try to maintain our high performing school community. Please know I am not ungrateful, I do recognize and celebrate the overwhelming majority of students who experience significant successes while attending our program. At the same time, I do worry for those who are currently struggling.

Shortly after we return from the winter break, the district's Magnet, Fundamental and Career Academy programs will begin to accept on-line applications. This information is most important for families with children currently in grades five and eight. Current sixth and seventh graders enrolled with us will not need to do anything to return in the fall. However, anyone with a fifth grader wanting to attend here will have to go through the application and acceptance process. While families already attending a fundamental elementary school, or with siblings here, are promised a seat, they must still apply. Our current eighth graders will have many opportunities to attend other schools or programs other than their close to home school. Our Guidance Department will be providing additional information, and parents of eighth graders are highly encouraged to attend the Fundamental, Magnet and Career Academy Fair. Some important dates to remember include:

- Application Period: January 7 through January 20, 2012 / On-Line
- District wide Information Fair: January 7, 2012 / Pinellas Park High School, 9am-Noon
- South County Information Fair: January 10, 2012 / Gibbs High School, 6-8pm.
- Acceptance Period: February 9 through February 16, 2012

As we approach the winter holidays and break from the normal school routine, please make a special effort to enjoy family and friends, appreciating even the smallest of blessings that have come your way. Please know I feel blessed to have the opportunity to be your family's principal. It is truly a great honor.

Just a "few" words from Mr. "R",
Dave Rosenberger

To view the complete newsletter
please go to our website at
cfms.pcsb.org

rosenbergerd@pcsb.org



STEP Still On the Move

Students Targeted for Educational Performance is on the move. October's Harvest Dance was a huge success thanks to all the volunteers, faculty, staff and students. Everybody felt the rhythm of the beat and got up and moved their feet.

November proved to be just as exciting with the first field trip of the school year to Mahaffey Theatre. Students experienced the arts as they enjoyed six plays by the *Encore Ensemble*. The show included "The Tell Tale Heart", "The Monkey's Paw", "The Necklace", "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", "The Raven", and "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County". All were entertained by both the scary and the funny scenes incorporated in the plays. After their cultural experience, students enjoyed a delicious picnic lunch back at the school.

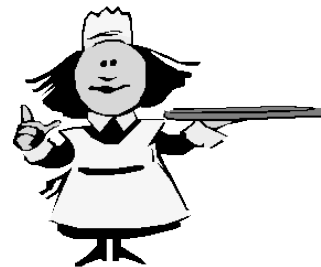
The guest speaker for the fall was Circuit Judge Michael Andrews who spoke to a combined crowd of STEP members and eighth grade students. His message was one of perseverance and motivation to always achieve. Judge Andrews encouraged students to never give up and to never allow anyone else to decide their future for them. He urged students to let nothing stand in their way to becoming a success.

Next semester looks even brighter than the last. STEP will be busy planning to visit elementary schools for *Dr. Seuss Day* and to learn about careers as they tour businesses and organizations. The annual Soul Food Teacher Luncheon is coming in February.

STEP encourages everyone to please help them in their community service projects of collecting soda pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and collecting reading glasses and sunglasses for Haiti earthquake survivors.

Parents of STEP members are encouraged to read their emails as most communication about STEP programs is sent electronically. If you, as a parent of a STEP member, have not been receiving emails, please email Mrs. Andrews at andrewsje@pcsb.org so that she has your address. You don't want to miss all that STEP has to offer.

CAFÉ HOTLINE



Dear CFMS family,

Our staff hopes everyone had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving holiday and vacation. Before we turn around, we can do it all over again for twice as long!

Now, I would like to touch upon two points:

- ◆ Milk is not considered a fruit, juice or vegetable. Please remind your children of this so they take the proper choice the first time around. It will keep the lunch lines flowing faster, giving all a bit more time to eat.
- ◆ We do not take pre-payments during the lunch lines. Some cashiers were taking them during lunch, but NO ONE will be accepting them now.

We do accept cash for the day's purchases and the exact amount to pay off a negative balance, but we will not put a check or the balance of cash on a student's account during the lunch lines. The students know that we have a locked payment drop box by the registers, with envelopes and a pen.

Monies are applied to the students' accounts during breakfast, before first lunch, and after each lunch line has been completed. So, if there is no money on the account, there is no borrowing for ala carte items until monies have been credited during the allotted times. Deposits post immediately, so once the cashiers put in the pre-payments, students are welcome to come back up and purchase whatever they like. Again, this system keeps lines flowing faster and students have more social time, along with digesting their meals at a normal pace.

As always, please feel free to contact me if the need arises.

Our kitchen staff wishes all a restful vacation and a blessed holiday!!



Catherine Hyman
Food Service Manager
Phone #298-2363

ABSENT STUDENTS

If your child is absent, please contact the front office or email Claire Watson at watsoncl@pcsb.org before 10 AM. When the student returns to school, have him/her turn in a note to the front office explaining the absence. If the absence was for more than 3 days, we will need a note from the doctor. Thank you for your cooperation!

TARDIES

Students will be considered tardy if they are not physically in the classroom when the tardy bell sounds.

EARLY DISMISAL

If you will be picking your child up early from school, please bring a photo ID. Also, remember that we will call the child to the office only once an adult is on campus, so if you have an appointment, please come a few minutes early.

LOCKER USE

Students may use their lockers in between classes, before and after school, and before and after lunch. Students will be required to have a pass to use their locker during class time.

GUM

Gum chewing is not permitted on campus at any time. This includes any evening or weekend activity.

REPORT CARDS

Grades earned for a marking period will become available on-line through PORTAL. In an effort to reduce some of our printing costs, other than the final end of the year report card, school-wide report cards will not be sent home. However, parents can request a traditional paper copy by contacting Mrs. Buird in the front office.



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT NEWS

Great American Teach-In

I want to thank all of our Great American Teach In speakers, guests and volunteers. The day was a huge success because of all of you!! We had over 75 speakers present to more than 230 classes. We had positive feedback from the teachers, parents and staff about the wonderful topics. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy lives to make a difference at CFMS.



Please remember to input your hours into portal. We have a great volunteer base, but our hours in portal don't reflect the amount of time put in by our volunteers. Be sure to count all your volunteer hours, including meetings and field trips. Our first semester hours are due in January, so please put them in as soon as possible!!

Thanks for all that you do!!

*Teresa Daiker,
Community & Family Liaison*

FINAL Middle School Discovery Nights

December 2011

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3
5 Discovery Night Madeira Beach K-8 Fundamental 5:30-7:00 p.m.	6 Discovery Night	7 Discovery Night Sanderlin MS Middle Years Programme 6:30-8:00 p.m.	8 Discovery Night Dunedin Highland MS Gifted 6:00-7:30 p.m.	9	10
12 Discovery Night John Hopkins MS Center for Arts & Communications 6:00-8:00 p.m.	13 Discovery Night Thurgood Marshall Fundamental MS and Gifted 6:00-7:00 p.m. Fitzgerald MS Gifted 6:30-7:30 p.m.	14 Discovery Night Bay Point MS Center for Advancement of Sciences & Technology 6:00-7:00 p.m.	15 Discovery Night Clearwater Fundamental MS 6:30-8:00	16	17
19 Schools Closed	20 Schools Closed	21 Schools Closed	22 Schools Closed	23 Schools Closed	24
26 Schools Closed	27 Schools Closed	28 Schools Closed	29 Schools Closed	30 Schools Closed	31

Key Dates for Application Programs

- Oct. 20, District Application Program Parent Workshop at Countryside HS, 7-8 p.m.
- Oct. 24, District Application Program Parent Workshop at Gibbs HS, 7-8 p.m.
- Oct. 27, District Application Program Parent Workshop at Pinellas Park HS, 7-8 p.m.
- Jan. 7 – Information Fair Pinellas Park HS
- Jan. 10 – South County Information Fair Gibbs HS, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 7-20 – Application Period
- Feb. 9-16 – Acceptance Period for District Application Programs
- March 5 – Kindergarten and New Student Enrollment Begins



CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

These students were spotted going above and beyond with their classmates. Some examples of their acts of kindness include:

- * The offer of help to a student that was hurt
- * Offering advice to a student that was upset about being bullied
- * Inviting a new student to come play ball after observing that he seemed lonely during lunch
- * Helping other students get organized
- * Sending a card to a friend after a medical emergency.

It is because of acts of kindness such as the ones performed by these students that makes Clearwater Fundamental great! Keep it up!

Jared K 6th

Mario M 7th

Graham H 7th

Mitchel S 6th

Carol V 6th

McKenna S 7th

Jade P 7th

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS



Student Council's *Toys for Tots* drive will begin on December 6th and end on December 14th. Students and

staff, please bring in **new** and **unwrapped** toys to your Literacy teacher as a donation. A list of approved toys and suggestions will be given out during Literacy class soon. Keep your eyes open! On behalf of Student Council, we thank you for helping make the holidays special for children in need.

Mrs. Hawthorne

Ms. Coker

SPIRIT DAY AT CHICK-FIL-A

Next Wednesday, December 7th, join us in showing school spirit and support CFMS at Chick-fil-A on Gulf to Bay Blvd from 3:15 PM until 5:15 PM. A portion of the sales will be donated back to the CFMS PTA. Principal Rosenberger will be serving milk shakes. There will also be a wheel where for \$1 a spin you can win coupons or prizes.

Just mention when you order that you are with Clearwater Fundamental Middle School

See you there!

PTA Winter Dance



PTA will be hosting the Winter Dance on Friday, December 9th, from 6:30 to 9:30PM. Please consider helping in the following areas:

- Volunteers are needed to help sell dance tickets on Wed., Dec. 7, Thurs., Dec. 8 and Fri., Dec. 9 in the morning from 7:45-8:15 a.m.
- Snack and drink donations would be appreciated. Please drop off your contributions to the front office anytime during this week.
- Chaperones and volunteers will be needed on the night of the dance. Parents are needed to keep kids from wandering the hallways and supervise behavior, as well as help serve snacks.

Please contact Teresa Daiker in the front office if you can help with our dance needs. (daikert@pcsb.org or 298-1609 ext. 2003) We appreciate your support and assistance. Without you these fun events wouldn't be possible!

TEACHER WISH LIST

- Most teachers could use boxes of tissues.
- Ms. Roche needs 2" clear packing tape for Adopt-a-Soldier packages, Black Expo markers for whiteboard, Clorox Wipes for classroom desks, packages of loose leaf notebook paper for Literacy project
- The TV Production Crew could use donations of SDHC memory cards and USB flash drives. SDHC cards must be rated "Class 6" or higher and 4GB or larger. We can use USB flash drives which are 2GB or larger.

THANK YOU for YOUR SUPPORT!

NON-FICTION

DONATIONS NEEDED

CFMS is in need of non-fiction books to help build up our individual classroom libraries. Please check your shelves at home, garage sales, and book stores for books that you can donate to our classrooms. Place your donations on the cart in the main hallway. Thank you!



Reminder: Non-fiction books cover factual, true-life subjects.

SPONSORED BY THE READING DEPARTMENT @ CFMS

CFMS ANNUAL

SPELLING



EE

Our school wide Spelling Bee will be taking place on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at 1:07 P.M., (beginning of Period 5) in the Media Center. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

Students from 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will compete to find a winner who will represent CFMS at the Regional Spelling Bee, to be held at Admiral Farragut School, in St. Petersburg, in March 2012.

More information on will be posted on the CFMS website and also available from Language Arts teachers, who will be holding the classroom bees by January 9, to determine contestants for the Bee.

Encourage your students to polish their spelling skills now!

Evelyn Grosch
Spelling Bee Coordinator

ADOPT - A - SOLDIER PROJECT

Once again this year the Literacy Classes at CFMS are "adopting" soldiers on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our adoption includes writing letters of support and cheer as well as sending monthly care packages of candy, cookies, gum, and snacks of all kinds. We are always appreciative of donated items to include in the packages. What to donate? You can find a long list of needed items in the front office. Also, pictures of our "adopted" soldiers are in the display case in the main hallway.



Margo Roche
Adopt-a-Soldier Sponsor
rochem@pcsb.org

ORGANIZATIONAL CLASS

Every Tuesday MORNING for students new to the class from 7:40 - 8:15 AM

and

Every Tuesday AFTERNOON for students who have been to the class at least once from 2:50 - 3:30 PM

All students needing extra help learning to get organized are invited to attend.

MRS. WOODS' ROOM # 406

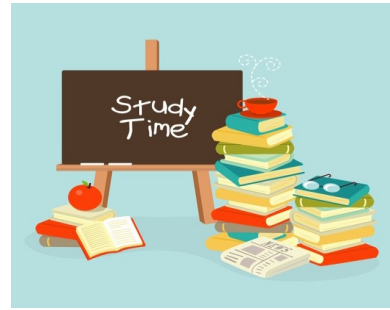
Upstairs next to Guidance



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Pinellas County Schools Administration - 588-6000
 Pinellas County Schools Help Desk - 588-6060
 School Board Office - 588-6300
 PSTA Customer Service - 540-1900
 YMCA - 442-8296

Clearwater Fundamental Middle School
 1660 Palmetto Street
 Clearwater, Florida 33755
 727-298-1609 FAX: 727-298-1614
 Dave Rosenberger, Principal



Study groups are scheduled in the morning with Mrs. Woods starting at 7:40AM. Groups meet in room #406 (upstairs next to Guidance) Please see the calendar outside the door by the basketball courts for weekly study groups. Schedules are also provided on morning announcements and "The Loop".



HOMWORK HELPLINE

Homework Helpline is a free service for students to receive homework help. Certified teachers are on the phone ready to help. Monday-Thursdays 5-8p.m. call: 547-7223 or 442-3226

Please be patient and call back if the line is busy.

Useful Websites

Clearwater Fundamental: cfms.pcsb.org

The new CFMS website is best viewed in Firefox. The site may not appear formatted correctly in Internet Explorer, however we are working on the problem.

Clearwater PTA: www.cfmspta.org

Pinellas County Schools: www.pcsb.org

Faculty / Staff: last name first initial @ pcsb.org
 (example: rosenbergerd@pcsb.org)

To Add Money to Lunch Accounts:

www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com



Magnet, Fundamental and Career Academy Application Period

The Application Period for applying to any magnet, fundamental or career academy program for the 2012-2013 school year is scheduled for Jan. 7-20, 2012.

Parents will use their Parent Portal User ID and Password to log onto the Student Reservation System (SRS) web page located on the district website, www.pcsb.org, to apply. Those parents who do not have a User ID and Password may call the Student Assignment office, (727) 588-6210 or visit any nearby school to obtain one. If families do not have a home computer, they may visit a nearby school or a community location. The SRS also is available in Spanish.

Information Fairs – The district will hold **two Information Fairs** this year:

- **Districtwide Fair** – Pinellas Park High (6305 118th Ave., N, Largo) on Saturday, Jan. 7 from 9 a.m.-noon.
- **South County Fair** – Gibbs High School (850 34th St. S, St. Petersburg) on Tuesday, Jan. 10 from 6-8 p.m.

The Information Fairs allow parents to gather information and ask questions about the district's magnet, fundamental and career academy programs.

Discovery Night schedules are posted online. Additional information about the application process will be posted on the district website as it becomes available.

Stay Connected with PCS

NEWSROOM – For the latest district news, visit the PCS website Newsroom, www.pcsb.org.

TV – School board meetings are held twice monthly during most months and are streamed live at www.wpds.tv. Rebroadcasts are available on Bright House Networks Ch. 614, Knology Ch. 2 and Verizon Ch. 46.

TWITTER – Sign up to follow district news on Twitter at www.twitter.com/pcschoools.

PCS PORTAL – Review your child's grades, participate in educational video lessons, and communicate interactively with your child's teacher through this online system. The portal is located on the district website, www.pcsb.org.

New Data Dashboard Launched

PCS has developed an online Data Dashboard for the purposes of transparency and accountability to students, parents, and the community. This data-warehouse provides information about school grades, FCAT, graduation rates, student absence reports, and reports on the demographic data English Language Learners. New reports are automatically posted each week on enrollment and parent login information.

Parents can access the Data Dashboard by clicking on the icon on the home page of the district website, www.pcsb.org.



New Procedures for Public Participation at School Board Meetings – Beginning Jan. 2012

Beginning with the first board meeting in January 2012, members of the public will have two different opportunities to address the Board.

- Members of the public can speak to one or more agenda, but will be limited to one three-minute period. These presentations will occur during the meeting prior to the "Adoption of the Agenda."
- A 30-minute public participation time period will be set aside immediately prior to the Board meeting to allow speakers one three-minute period to speak on matters not covered by the numbering agenda items. If this time period does not permit time for all public speakers, then the remaining speakers will be allowed to speak after the adjournment of the meeting.

Student Calendar Key Dates for 2012-13






2012

Aug. 20 – First day of school.
Sept. 3 – Labor Day Holiday.
Sept. 14 – Schools closed for students.
Oct. 19 – Schools closed for students.
Nov. 19-23 – Thanksgiving Holiday.
Dec. 24-Jan. 4 – Winter Holidays.

2013

Jan. 7 – Schools reopen.
Jan. 18 – Schools closed for students.
Jan. 21 – MLK Day Holiday.
Feb. 18 – Schools closed for students.
March 25-29 – Spring Break.
April 29 – Schools closed for students.
May 27 – Memorial Day Holiday.
June 5 – Last day of school for students.

December 2011 - Pinellas County Middle School Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
<p>Holiday Menu will be served during the week of December 12 – 16 The day is determined by each school</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choose 1 Sliced Turkey with Gravy and Dressing Toasted Cheese Sandwich Choose Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Glazed Sweet Potatoes, Tossed Salad, Assorted Fruit & Juice Choose Roll, Dessert</p>				<p>1 Max Stick & Tots Breakfast pizza</p>	<p>2 yogurt parfait cinnamon roll</p>
<p>5 Pizza Pocket</p>	<p>6 Canadian Bacon & Egg bagel</p>	<p>7 Cheese Grits & Sausage Patty Breakfast pizza</p>	<p>8 Pancake Pup Pizza pockets</p>	<p>9 yogurt parfait Breakfast pizza</p>	
<p>Spicy chx patty/pizza Baked potato w cheese Chx Caesar salad Veggies w dip/broccoli Fruit & juice/wheat roll</p> <p>Ala carte – popcorn chx</p>	<p><u>Popcorn chx/tacos</u> <u>Maxsticks</u> <u>Farmer's salad</u> <u>Romaine salad/mxd</u> <u>veggies</u> <u>Fruit & juice/dessert</u></p> <p>Ala carte – spicy chx patties</p>	<p>Beef dippers & rice/Cubans Lasagna Spicy chx salad Leafy green salad/black beans Fruit & juice</p> <p>Ala carte – tater tots/egg roll</p>	<p>Breaded chx/chili, cheese & chips/ravioli Farmer's salad Romaine salad/carrots Fruit & juice/garlic sticks</p> <p>Ala carte – cheeseburger</p>	<p>Pizza/fish Entrée salad Tossed salad/corn Fruit & juice/pretzel rod</p> <p>Ala carte – popcorn chx</p>	
<p>12 Two Egg Omelet Hash browns & egg</p>	<p>13 Cheese Quesadilla With Sausage Link</p>	<p>14 Breakfast Sausage Bagel</p>	<p>15 Chicken & Biscuit</p>	<p>16 yogurt parfait Honey buns</p>	
<p>Cheeseburger/hamburger Pizza/bean burrito Spicy chx salad Lett & tom salad/baked beans/tater tots Fruit & juice</p> <p>Ala carte – popcorn chx</p>	<p>Turkey, stuffing & gravy Grilled cheese/breaded chx Chicken Caesar salad Tossed salad/green beans Mashed potatoes/sweet potatoes Fruit & juice/white wheat roll/dessert Ala carte – spicy chx patty</p>	<p>spicy chx patty/maxsticks tacos chicken Caesar salad leafy green salad/tomato soup/sweet potato bites fruit & juice</p> <p>ala carte – tater tots/egg roll</p>	<p>Chili, cheese & chips Lasagna/ breakfast for lunch Spicy chicken salad Veggies w dip Fruit & juice/white wheat roll</p> <p>Ala carte – chx parm</p>	<p>pizza/fish entrée salad tossed salad/green beans fruit & juice</p> <p>ala carte – popcorn chx</p>	
	<p style="color: red; font-size: 1.2em;">Winter Holiday Schools Closed December 19 – January 2 Schools Reopen January 3, 2012</p>				
	<p>Daily Breakfast Choice: Choose 2: Cereal, Toast, Meat/Meat Alternative Choose at least 1: Fresh/Canned Fruit or Fruit Juice Choose 1: Milk Daily Lunch Choice: Choose 1: Entrée Choose at least 1: Fruit or Vegetable Choose 1: Bread Choose 1: Milk</p> <p>Available Daily: Meatless Entrée, Entrée Salads, Cold Sandwiches, Low Fat White, Fat Free Flavored or Skim Milk</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">You may choose as many <u>different</u> fruits and veggies as you would like!</p>				

In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, Pinellas County School Food Service is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.